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The Associated Students of the University of Montana
Resolution Regarding a Shared Governance Led Program Prioritization Process
February 15th, 2017

SB62-16/17

Authored by: Chase Greenfield, ASUM Business Manager;
Sponsored by:

Whereas, The Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) is the official representative body of the students of the University of Montana (UM);

Whereas, ASUM has a vested interest in the program prioritization process at the University of Montana;

Whereas, on Thursday, February 9th 2017, President Sheila Stearns announced an outline for the several parallel processes on the University of Montana campus, including academic and services/administrative program prioritization, which involve and effect all shared governance constituencies;

Whereas, These processes, in whatever form they are carried out, will have a crucial and lasting impact on the long-term future of our campus's identity and the experience of all stakeholders;

Whereas, UM's current budgetary situation leaves shared governance bodies with two options: comply with an administration-led program prioritization process and be subject to the administration's discretion or have shared governance work to take leadership and ownership of an academic and services program prioritization process;

Whereas, it is in the interest of all shared governance bodies to direct the necessary process of program prioritization from the bottom-up and to lead a truly collaborative, transparent, and thorough procedure on a basis that best serves the institution's long-term identity and interests;

Therefore, Let It Be Resolved, that the Associated Students of the University of Montana (ASUM) endorse a shared governance-led program prioritization process;

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that ASUM urges the Faculty Senate, Staff Senate, Faculty Unions, and Staff Unions to work together with ASUM to design and lead the processes of both academic and services/administrative program prioritization;

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that ASUM requests that any program prioritization committee, task force, or organization be composed primarily of representatives appointed by UM's shared governance bodies, with UM Administrators serving only as ex-officio (and non-voting) members to ensure effective coordination and implementation;

Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that the University of Montana's shared governance bodies work together to ensure that all decisions made by the program prioritization processes are transparent, thorough, cooperative and are made final with the consent of the University President;

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Therefore, Let It Further Be Resolved, that a copy of this resolution be sent to: Paul Haber, President of the University Faculty Association; John DeBoer, Chair of the Faculty Senate; Jennifer Zellmer-Cuaresma, Staff Senate President; Tom Gallagher, President of the Missoula College Faculty Association; Sheila Stearns, President of the University of Montana; and Beverly Edmond, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs.

Passed by ASUM Senate: _____, 2017

Elizabeth Engebretson
Chair of the Senate